

THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT

VOLUME XIV. NO. 1

LIBERAL, SEWARD COUNTY, KANSAS, JUNE 23, 1921

J. B. MILLER

ADJT. GEN. MARTIN TO BE HERE FRIDAY

Will Address Chamber of Commerce and The Legion

The question as to whether or not the National Guard organization is to be maintained in Liberal is to be discussed at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce next Friday.

The present enlistments expire next month and unless it is the wish of the business interests that the Guard be continued here the organization will be disbanded.

Adj. Gen. C. J. Martin will be here Friday to meet with the Chamber of Commerce to ascertain the sentiment of the business men in this regard. Mr. Martin is known as one of the biggest army men in the United States, and will have some thing instructive as well as interesting to say. It is desired that there be a full attendance, not only of the members of the Chamber of Commerce, but all business and professional men interested in the progress of Liberal.

The Democrat is informed that fifty to sixty men can hold the organization, and that enlistments can be made for the period of one year, which makes membership more desirable than formerly.

Mr. Martin's talk will deal with the National Guard company as a business asset to the town and should be heard by every booster.

He will also address the American Legion the same day. The hour for these talks has not been set as it is not known just what train he will come on, but the time will be announced so that all may attend.

The Guard Co., has given Liberal a lot of favorable publicity during the time it has been organized, and the proposition deserved through consideration because of the fact that if we lose the company at this time it will be impossible to secure another.

The boys have made good and rank close to the top of Kansas companies and if the business interests can assist them in any way there is little doubt but what the assistance will be forthcoming.

SWALLOWED A PENNY CONDITION SERIOUS

Little Elnor Snyder, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ned Snyder swallowed a penny Sunday afternoon and is in a serious condition. Physicians fear an operation will be necessary.

The little girl took two pennies to Sunday school, but one of them was a bright new one she wanted to keep it. While playing with it she put it in her mouth and a moment later had swallowed it. A day or so later she became ill but the attending physician did not attribute the trouble to that source, but when she did not get better an x-ray was taken which showed that the penny had lodged in a valve in the intestines. She is very ill and unless the penny can be dislodged it will be necessary to operate.

Mr. Snyder is in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and is in very poor health, and it is not known whether he will be able to return home.

CHILD DIED FROM BURNS

Glen C. Pope, little son of Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Pope of near Gray, Okla., died at a local hospital Tuesday, from result of burns received three weeks ago, when he played with matches and ignited his clothing.

T. G. HUBBARD HIT BY AUTO SAT. NIGHT

While crossing the street at the Enterprise grocery store corner last Saturday night, T. G. Hubbard was struck by an auto, and after being carried a few feet on the radiator, fell to the pavement.

He was not seriously injured, but was badly shaken up and sustained a few bruises about the body. The accident was due to bright lights on the car which blinded Mr. Hubbard.

A. T. Wright of Tyrone was in town the first of the week on business.

APPRECIATES FREE CAMP GROUND

Many Tourists. Visit Camp. These Days—All Express Liking For Accommodations

The Free Camp Ground established by the Chamber of Commerce at Liberal is being well patronized. It has an average population each evening of something like twenty people. The shelter house is completed and painted, tables and benches have been provided, and there is light and water and fuel at hand. One California man said a few days ago that Liberal has the best stopping place for tourists he found on the southern route between here and California. The following was written the Chamber of Commerce by a man who stopped here recently: Sec. Liberal Chamber of Commerce, Dear Sir:— Being interested in civic improvement, I want to congratulate your city on your "Tourist Camp." Stopped there last night and enjoyed its comforts. Nothing you could have undertaken would impress a tourist more than this camp.

Wesley A. Fieth,
Pres. Chamber of Commerce,
Higginsville, Missouri.

THREE-DAY PICNIC TO BE HELD AT GRAND VALLEY

A big three-day picnic will be held at Grand Valley, Oklahoma, about thirty miles south of Tyrone, in the Sutton Grove, a beautiful place for a large gathering, on July 28, 29 and 30. There will be boxing, wrestling, ball games, horse racing and many other amusements. A merry-go-round and other carnival attractions will help amuse the crowd. Everybody is invited to attend.

HARVEST GOING FULL BLAST NOW

Scarcity of Help Retarding Work of Cutting of Wheat

With one of the best crops in the history of the country ready for the binders the shortage of harvest hands is seriously hampering the work of harvesting the grain.

Hundreds of men are needed in the territory about Liberal and but few men are coming in. Farmers are meeting every train in the hope of picking up men, but their vigilance is counting for little.

At the Armory Capt. A. T. Hilyard of Company E is conducting a billet for the incoming help and here men may sleep and loaf until they are needed, but they are getting but little sleep and no loafing, as there are farmers on hand to take out every man who appears. The first few nights there were a number of men on hand but now they go out as fast as they arrive.

The wheat ripened earlier than was anticipated and found the farmers unprepared for the work of cutting. Then, too, the grain ripened uniformly over the country, shutting off the supply of men which usually comes from the south as the harvest extends in this direction.

From all the reports we can get we are led to believe that the yield this year will equal, if not surpass, all former yields. The heads are well filled and are longer than usual, and at no time during the growing season has there been a time when the crop has been in danger. It has been an ideal season and the crop is going to show it.

ROY JOHNSON AGAIN OWNER OF PULLMAN

Roy Johnson is again exclusive owner and manager of the New Pullman cafe, H.N. Witt who bought an interest recently, having sold it back to Mr. Johnson, and will sever his business relations with the cafe on July 1st.

Mr. Witt will continue to make Liberal his home, but will devote his entire time to his real estate interests.

The Pullman Cafe is one of the popular eating houses of the city and Mr. Johnson who has been in charge of the business for several years, will continue to make the place a pleasing one for its patrons.

BOY SCOUTS RETURN FROM THEIR LONG TRIP

Travelled A Thousand Miles Into Five States

The 1000-mile Scout trip has about ended, and the Scouts, Scoutmasters and other officials of the trip will return home this evening about six o'clock.

The trip will be one never to be forgotten by the Scouts and the men who accompanied them. While little information has been received from them other than telegrams regarding their condition, it is known that they had a fine time, and are all healthy, hearty and happy.

A telegram received by E. D. Cooper, Wednesday afternoon, from Pueblo, Colorado, says:

"One hundred Liberal, Kansas, Boy Scouts under direction of John W. Baughman, completing wonderful one thousand mile auto trip through Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Colorado, visited historic Taos, old ruins Pueblo Indians; crossed great mountains and prosperous valleys, caught trout and had wonderful time; entertained by Clayton, Raton, Taos, Great Divide, Gave splendid dinner at Sunshine their new town. C. R. Dwire and three guides joined party at Eagle Nest Dam. Now on last leg of trip. Officers in charge, Manager J. W. Baughman, Commissioner Eli Walker, Scout Masters E. A. Pennington, Rev. Pennington, B. Myers, Chas. Buchanan and Willard Harnden. All in party well and happy."

From this we gather that the Scouts were royally received on their trip and given every opportunity to enjoy themselves by the towns on their route as well as the fellows who had them in charge.

We should like to throw a nice bouquet at Baughman but the undertaking is too great. This trip made at his expense will cost well into the four figure column and there are mighty few men who would invest that much in such an undertaking. And not only that but he drove a truck the entire distance, no small task, and had a part in looking after the arrangements and the comfort of the boys. And even before the start he was busy most of the time for a couple of months making plans, as well as having his office force on the job part of the time.

EPISCOPAL SERVICES

The Rev. J. W. Jones of Hutchinson will be here Sunday, July 3rd, to hold Episcopal services at the Baptist Annex.

Holy Communion at 8 A. M.; morning prayer and sermon at 11 A. M. Everyone is invited to these services.

RAIN AND MORE RAIN

This section has been abundantly blessed with rain this week, several good showers having fallen and more are promised. The rain has somewhat retarded harvest, but is not a bad thing for the spring crops, and bumped yields of these crops now seem certain.

FOURTH OF JULY AT THE DAVIS GROVE

There will be a joint old fashioned basnet dinner picnic held by the Bell View and Blue Bell Community Clubs on the Fourth of July in the Davis Grove, 11 miles east of Liberal. The following program has been arranged:

A Free Parade
RACES: Sack Race, Potato Race, Egg Race, Relay Race, Married Ladies Race, Old Mans' Race, Foot Races and Slow Mule Race,
Tug of War
Old Fashioned Dinner
Base Ball Game between Blue Bell and Bellview Boys.
Base Ball Game between Blue Bell and Bellview Bloomer Girls.

Program will be concluded by an exhibition of bronco riding.

Everybody bring well filled baskets and come and enjoy an old time Fourth of July.

BLUE BELL COMMUNITY CLUB
BELLVIEW COMMUNITY CLUB
By J. W. Mahan.

ELLIS TELLS OF PLOT TO BLOW UP CAR

Says Miller Would have Killed Plunk and Two Girls

Late in a rumor is current that in a later confession Ellis has entirely exonerated Henry Smith from any part or knowledge in the murder of John Longenecker.

Sheriff Nelson who made a business trip to Hutchinson the first of the week went in to see Harry Ellis whom he says is willing to reply to all questions and officials believe that he is telling the truth. In talking to the Sheriff, Ellis told the same story he has heretofore given. He says that Miller and Smith killed Longenecker for the money he carried and that he (Ellis) did not know they were going to kill him until they had driven to his farm and he again asked Miller what he was going to do with the gun he had borrowed. He informed him that they had come for the money and would kill Longenecker to get it. During the tragedy that followed, Ellis sat in the back of the car and had no part in it, until he was ordered to get away with the Longenecker car which he did as before stated. The slaying of Smith resulted because of his demand for more money, says Ellis, and he was compelled to do the killing to save his own life.

A startling story was given the Sheriff in which Ellis told him that Miller and Smith suspected the Plunk boy and the young girls with whom they went with, and he (Miller) said that he had something to put in the Plunk boy's car the first chance he had, that would blow it to atoms and everyone in it. The chemical was thought to be ether, although it is not known.

It appears that Ellis was but an accomplice having been accidentally brought into the deal and made to shield others. That Ellis would have been killed by Miller is more than likely by the master criminal whom it is said has two other murders to his record besides these two here.

FELL AND BROKE ARM

Little John Holton son of Mr. and Mrs. Holton who live southeast of the city fell and broke his arm this morning while running about the yard.

RINEY & NEWBY MARKET NEW WHEAT

Riney & Newby, one of the live wire real estate firms of Liberal marketed the first three loads of new wheat at Moscow Wednesday. The wheat was sold to E. L. Gaskell the Moscow grain man and brought \$1.10. Riney & Newby contracted 10,000 bushels to Mr. Gaskell at that price.

Mr. Newby says the wheat is averaging around 14 bushels to the acre and test 63. This tract was in the dry streak in north Stevens county and is not yielding as heavy as the county in general, but Mr. Newby says that after paying the expense of planting, harvesting and threshing there will be a profit left.

DID NOT ORGANIZE A KIWANIS CLUB

Mr. Warren Kimsey, Field man for the International Kiwanis Clubs, was in Liberal Monday and Tuesday attempting to organize a Kiwanis Club in this city. He just recently completed a club at Dodge City. Mr. Kimsey met with a committee of young business men on Monday evening and outlined the policies of such a club, and the benefits to be derived by having such a club but the committee after due consideration decided that if possible Liberal would prefer to have a Rotary Club, and if it is possible to secure a Rotary Club for Liberal it would be backed up by every business United States and foreign countries, new man in town, as throughout the the boosting and pushing of the Rotary Clubs for anything that helps their town or community is one of their hobbies, and it is needed here.

J. A. Morgan of Kismet was here Thursday on business.

HOME TALENT PLAY HAD SMALL HOUSE

But Play Was Good and Well Rendered by Liberal People

While the crowd was not what the play deserved by any means the home talent production "It's All in The Pay Streak" given at the Majestic last night was well handled.

The play was given on short notice, but the careful selection of the cast overcame this difficulty and the participants got away in good shape.

The bill was a heavy one, a 3-act melodrama, but all proved themselves equal to the occasion.

Miss Sarah Snow played the lead and was as charming as ever. Clifford Leete who had the opposite role is well known to Liberal audiences and handled his part naturally. Capt. Hilyard of Co. E played the role of the prodigal son, and while it was a new experience for him no one would not have known that his specialty was comedy. Don Grace as the old colored mammy could hardly have been improved upon, while C. V. Rice as father of the heroine was far above the average.

Miss Vera Young, as the mountain girl, handled her part like a professional Miss Young never fails to please with her renditions.

Mr. Courtney as "Pay Streak" showed much ability as an actor as well as a director.

The play was given under his direction and those who took part pronounce him a whirlwind in that line of work. Not only is he a good director but a good fellow and he has made a lot of friends in Liberal during his short stay here.

The play will be given again this evening and we hope to see a packed house out to witness it. The proceeds are for the benefit of Company E. and are for a worthy cause.

NORTH WELL GOING INTO THE RED BEDS

Are Having Good Luck —Work Going Along Nicely Now

After fighting the quick sand that hindered the work for the first several hundred feet, the drillers in the well of the Seward County Oil & Gas Company north of Liberal, have reached the red beds and are making rapid progress.

That this strata was reached at such shallow depth is a mighty good indication that the well is located in a shallow sand strata, and if no oil or gas is found, it will no doubt be struck at a more shallow depth than in the Traders well, west of town.

The best dope available is that the red beds were encountered in the Traders well at something like 700 feet, while in the Seward County Oil & Gas Company test they were slightly below the 500 foot level.

Those who have watched the progress of this well are as happy as can be. The stock is practically all owned locally, and unless there are discouragements beyond what can be forecasted, there is enough money in the treasury to finish the work, and should a well be brought in with the small amount of stock already issued, it would be worth its weight in gold, and then some.

This stock was taken off the market more than a year ago, and the company financed at that time, which is a remarkable occurrence in local companies. The large block of acreage and small stock issue is all the benefit of the stockholders who are becoming more enthusiastic all the time.

No stock can be bought here except at a big premium, a small block having changed hands at one time for \$7.50 per share, while the par value is \$1 per share. Later a small amount sold for \$5, and since that time there has been none on the market.

The outlook is very bright and it is hoped the good luck will continue that a good test be made before cold weather sets in.

Rev. A. E. Henry was called to Hutchinson on business Wednesday morning.

NEW ENGINE FOR LIGHT PLANT HERE

Came in Saturday and Foundation is Under Construction

The new 365 horse-power Diesel engine for the Liberal Light Ice & Power Company arrived in the local railroad yards Saturday night and is ready for unloading.

A representative of the Democrat went down and looked the new machine over, and can say that it is a wonder. It is the very latest and most approved type of Diesel engine and is going to be a wonderful addition to the plant.

For several days men have been pouring the foundation but it will take many days yet to finish it. The magnitude of this task can only be comprehended by seeing the work in progress. It will take as much cement as any building in Liberal as well as several car loads of sand and gravel. Just about all the old iron in the town has been thrown into the mixture to tie it together, and it is a piece of work one seldom sees in this country, and the size of the foundation will give one a idea of the power of the big machine which will rest upon it.

The work on the foundation never stops, the men working in shifts, by the aid of lights strung at intervals over the scene of activities.

It will be several weeks before the engine is set and running, but when it is started there will be no question of sufficient light and electric power for the city and some to spare. With the addition of 365 horse-power the plant can easily take care of any load that is required of it.

NUMBER OF NEGROES HIRED FOR HARVEST

Sheriff Nelson obtained a number of colored men to assist in the harvest fields here, and the men arrived Wednesday night from Pratt. They had all been spoken for before they came to the city, and the farmers were there to meet them when the train arrived. The men were recommended as good workers and respectable fellows.

MISSIONARY TO SPEAK

Florence R. Smith, a returned missionary from South America will speak at the Friends church Friday night. All are cordially invited to come.

TWO FAMILIES HERE TOTALLY DESTITUTE

Two Mexican families arrived in the city Monday and made the depot their headquarters while looking for employment. The men came with the expectation of obtaining work which had been pictured to them as plentiful. It is said that farmers refused to accept the men as harvest hands, being afraid they would not deliver the goods.

The Chamber of Commerce looked after the women and children, providing food. There were many little children and all were hungry. They slept about the floor of the depot while domiciled there.

LIBERAL IN DOUBLE HEADER AGAIN SUNDAY

Liberal let Forgan beat her by a score of 10 to 5, last Sunday when the team from the southeast city came up and took Liberal through a swift game.

In the Liberal and Sublette game Liberal made 8 over her opponent's 3, thus redeeming herself in a measure for the loss to Forgan.

There was a very good crowd at the ball park and between the games and the aeroplane flights Liberal had quite an exciting day of it.

FELL FROM WINDMILL BROKE ARM IN TWO PLACES

Little Donald Helsel, son of L. A. Helsel, fell from the A. J. Cure windmill tower, Monday morning while playing with a number of children there. Donald had climbed to the top of the tower when he fell. He sustained two broken places near his wrist by the fall and was shaken up badly.